S A L V A T I O N M A T R I X

Begin Here

1) Have you ever made a commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in your life today? Yes (number 2) ; No (number 10) ; I don’t know (number 26)

**page**

2) What will happen to you when you die?

a) I hope that I have been a good enough person to get into heaven. Click here

(Go to number 6 )

b) Nothing. I just cease to exist—as if I’d never been. Click here (Go to number 3 )

c) I will go to heaven because I have confessed my sins and have accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior. Click here (Go to number 8 )

d) I will go to a place of waiting (Purgatory, Paradise) and hope that someday I might go to heaven. Click here (Go to number 4 )

e) I will be like God and enter the celestial Kingdom because I’m a member of the right church, I repented and was baptized in the right church. Also, I must abstain from alcohol, tobacco and caffeine; tithe to the church; attend weekly sacrament meetings; support the Prophet; do temple works; and be active in support of the church. Click here (Go to number 5 )

f) My spirit will move on to another body. If I have lived well, I will proceed to a better life. If I have not, I will revert to a worse life. Click here (Go to number 9 )

g) I don’t know. Click here (Go to number 27)

**page**

3) Interesting view. If you were not correct, would you like to know it?

Yes (number 11) No (number 13)

**page**

4) While yours is a widely held belief, would you like to know what the Bible says about what happens after death? Yes (number 11) No (number 13)

**page**

5) Many people believe as you do. If the original, unaltered Bible said something different, would you like to know it? Yes (number 12) No (number 13)

**page**

6) Congratulations! You hold one of the most popular views of how to achieve heaven. If the Bible, God’s Word, showed a different view would you want to know it?

Yes (number 11) No (number 13)

**page**

7) I’m so glad you’re still reading! Here it is: Salvation, according to the Bible, is due to God's grace and love. He provided Jesus as the sacrifice for the sins of the world. It is through faith in the crucified and risen Jesus that we may be saved. Works are excluded. You can’t do enough or be good enough! (John 1:12; 3:16; Rom. 10:9-13; Eph. 2:8-9).

If you’re still interested in reading more, click here. (number 14)

**page**

8) Yup! You have it (not that you earned it in any way). It’s only Jesus and what He did, and continues to do, in our lives that matters. Our only part in the process is to agree with what God says about us in His Word (we’re sinners) and to receive His gift of salvation. If you’ve already done that, click here. (number 23 )

**page**

9) While yours is a widely held belief, would you like to know what the Bible says about what happens after death? Yes (number 11) No (number 13)

**page**

10) What will happen to you when you die?

a) I hope that I have been a good enough person to get into heaven. click here (number 6 )

b) Nothing. I just cease to exist—as if I’d never been. click here (number 3 )

c) I will go to a place of waiting (Purgatory) and hope that someday I might go to heaven. click here (number 4 )

d) I will be like God and enter the celestial Kingdom because I’m a member of the right church, I repented and was baptized in right church. Also, I must abstain from alcohol, tobacco and caffeine; tithe to the church; attend weekly sacrament meetings; support the Prophet; do temple works; and be active in support of the church. click here (number 5 )

e) My spirit will move on to another body. If I have lived well, I will proceed to a better life. If I have not, I will revert to a worse life. click here (number 9 )

f) I will go to Hell. click here (number 25 )

**page**

11) Here it is . . . the Bible, in Hebrews 9:27, says *“And just as it is destined that each person dies only once and after that comes judgment . . .”* Yeah, okay. But, on what basis is that judgement to be made? Where do I start to find out—to know that I’m going to heaven when I die? Well, for starters, click here. (number 7)

**page**

12) Here it is . . . the Bible, in Hebrews 9:27 King James Version, says “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment . . .” On what basis is that judgement to be made? Where do I start to find out—to know that I’m going to heaven when I die? Well, for starters, go to number 7. Wait . . . you need to know that all scripture quoted after this is from the New Living Translation. While all translations are somewhat subject to the views of the translators (including the KJV and the Joseph Smith edited version of the KJV), modern translators seek to discover the oldest, most reliable manuscripts available today. Many of these had not been discovered in 1611 a.d. when the KJV was translated. Interestingly, no important errors (other than an uncrossed “t” or missing period) have been discovered. To continue, click here (number 7)

**page**

13) Well, if you decide you are interested in finding out more, I’d be glad to chat with you about it. Check out our dialogue times.

**page**

14) Let’s start at a good beginning point . . . God loves us and has a purpose for our lives. The Bible says it this way, (John 3:16) *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”* God’s purpose is that we have eternal life. Read more about God’s purpose.

**page**

15) God’s Purpose for Your Life

a) Have eternal life as a free gift (we don’t–can’t–pay for it). *“the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Romans 6:23b

b) Live a full and meaningful life right now. *“My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.”* John 10:10b

c) Spend eternity with Jesus in heaven. *“. . . I am going to prepare a place for you. If this were not so, I would tell you plainly. 3When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.”* John 14:2b-3

So—that’s God’s purpose for your life in a nutshell. However, I don’t know about you but, as most folk searching for real meaning in life, I discovered that my rebelling nature kept me from fulfilling God’s purpose for my life. Am I the only one? What’s the Bible say?

**page**

16) Our Rebellion and Need for Help

a) We are all sinners because that’s the way we are and because we choose to sin. *“For all have sinned; all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”* Romans 3:23

c) We can’t save ourselves. *“Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.”* Ephesians 2:9

b) We deserve death and hell. *“For the wages of sin is death...”* Romans 6:23a

Here’s the challenge: God is holy and just and must punish sin, yet He loves us. So, in His mercy, He has provided the only way to forgiveness for our sin. Jesus said, *“...I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”* (John 14:6) So, what’s God’s plan?

**page**

17) God’s plan

a) Jesus is God and became man. *“1In the beginning the Word already existed. He was with God, and he was God . . .14So the Word became human and lived here on earth among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father.”* John 1:1, 14

b) Jesus died for us on the cross. *“Christ also suffered when he died for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners that he might bring us safely home to God. He suffered physical death . . .”* 1 Peter 3:18a

c) Jesus was resurrected from the dead. *“He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised from the dead to make us right with God.”* Romans 4:25

It isn’t automatic, though. The only way Jesus can affect our lives is for us to accept Him. The Bible says, *“But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.”* (John 1:12) How do we accept Him? What’s our part?

**page**

18) Our response

a) We must repent of our sin *“Now turn from your sins and turn to God...”* Acts 3:19a

◆ Repentance is not just feeling sorry for our sin. *“...all must turn from their sins and turn to God—and prove they have changed by the good things they do.”* Acts 26:20

◆ Repentance is turning away from our sin and turning to God through Jesus.

Explanation (U-Turn illustration)

b) We must place our faith in Jesus. *“God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.”* Ephesians 2:8

◆ Faith is not just believing facts about Jesus. *“Do you still think it’s enough just to believe that there is one God? Well, even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror!”* James 2:19

◆ Faith is trusting in Jesus. Explanation (Chair illustration)

c) We must make Jesus Lord of our life. *“9For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.”*

Romans 10:9-10

◆ Making Jesus Lord is not just saying we give our lives to Jesus. *“Not all people who sound religious are really godly. They may refer to me as ‘Lord,’ but they still won’t enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The decisive issue is whether they obey my Father in heaven.”* Matthew 7:21

◆ Making Jesus Lord is giving Jesus control of our lives.

Explanation (Driving illustration)

We show that Jesus has control by taking our stand with Him. The New Testament, Bible way is to publicly tell that you’ve given your life to Jesus and to be baptized and become part of a local church.

Does what we have been discussing make sense to you? Yes (number 19) No (number 24)

**page**

19) Would you be willing to receive God’s gift of eternal life? Yes (number 20) No (number 24)

**page**

20) Are you willing to turn from your sin and place your faith in Jesus right now?

Yes (number 21) No (number 24)

**page**

21) Just to clarify—To receive Jesus you must:

a) Repent of your sin.

b) Place your faith in Jesus.

c) Make Jesus Lord.

The Bible says, *“For ‘Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”* (Romans 10:13) If you truly want the Lord to give you eternal life, tell Him out loud by praying a simple prayer. As you pray this prayer, remember that we’ve been praying that you would read this, understand and give your life to Christ. Here is a suggested prayer. If it says what you want to say to Jesus, feel free to use it to express yourself.

Lord Jesus, I agree with You that I am a sinner and you are my only hope. I believe that You died for my sin and that God has raised you from the dead. I turn away from my sin, to you and I ask You to forgive me and to save me from my sin right now. I place my life in your hands. Thank You for saving me and for giving me eternal life. I pray, trusting You. Amen.

Did you just honestly pray that (or a similar) prayer? Yes (number 22) No (number 24 )

**page**

22) Welcome to the family of God. You have just made the most important decision of your life. You can be sure you are saved and have eternal life. Read Romans 10:13 again: “*For ‘Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”* It isn’t someone’s opinion. You have God’s Word on it!

One more click . . . (number 23)

**page**

23. Receiving Jesus into your life is only the beginning of a wonderful experience. Now that Christ is your Lord, you’ll want to know how you can grow as a Christian. I’d love for you to join me at the Baptist Student Union or a local church. Also, it’d be great if you connected with a growing Christian who can help you grow, too. I’d be glad to help in that process if you’d give me some contact information. If you’re under 18, please make sure it’s okay with mom or dad before you do.

Bruce Wade

Campus Missionary/Minister of Students

Baptist Student Union

Name:

Phone:

Address:

E-mail:

Year:

Age:

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24) I understand. It’s a huge decision. You might want to go back to our opening page and review. Or, if you decide you are interested in finding out more, I’d be glad to chat with you about it. Check out our dialogue times.

**page**

25) Hey, you may not believe it but, you’re a bunch closer to salvation than you may realize. You are aware that you don’t deserve to go to heaven. That’s the first step in the whole process. If God had a purpose and plan for your life, wouldn’t you want to know it?

Yes (number 14) No (number 13)

26) Now, that’s a good, honest answer. If you’re still interested, let me ask you another question. (Number 10)

27) Now, that’s a good, honest answer. You really can know. Click on! (Number 14)

Driving a Car

Think about what it means to give Jesus control of your life like this. It’s like driving down the highway with a passenger. As long as you’re driving, you are in control and can determine how to get where you are going. Suppose, you realize you don’t know the way, but your passenger does. You have three options: One, you can keep going in the same direction (you won’t end up where you want, but you might make good time); Two, you could keep driving and try to follow the other person’s directions (and hope they tell you right and to turn on time); Or, you could say, “OK, you take the wheel and drive” (for the sake of this discussion, they’re a good and licensed driver). Now, the other person will be in control and the two of you will take the route they choose since they know how to get there.

Do you get it? We have to turn the control of our lives over to Jesus by saying, “Jesus, you take control of my life and I will go where you want me to go.” We have to turn our lives over to him and learn to go where he wants us to go.

The Chair

Look at the chair you’re sitting on. Before you sat down, you could’ve answered some questions about it.

It’s a sturdy chair, right? It’s able to hold someone’s weight?

Perhaps that was true, but it never would hold your weight unless you trusted it enough to sit on it. The only way Jesus can make a difference in your life is for you to totally trust him. Believing Jesus exists but not doing anything about it—not putting your trust in Him—doesn’t make any difference in your life!

If you believe in Him without putting your trust in Him, you put your trust in yourself! The Bible says that kind of faith is dead.

U-Turn

Suppose you are driving to class (hey, you’re on a computer, you can imagine anything). Suddenly, you realize you are going in the wrong direction and make a U-turn (in a place where it was totally legal). Then you would be heading in the opposite direction (hopefully, in the right direction).

When we repent, we turn from our sin and turn to Jesus. Repent means to turn around—now!